

# Human Nature of Presidents Shown Best in Their Journeys on Pullmans

Fifteen Years of Traveling With Chief Executives Give Conductor Sidelights on Their Characters.

Here is a story about Presidents, en route.

"Of all the places to study human nature give me a Pullman car," says this conductor. "And Presidents are just like other human beings."

President Johnson was the first President to take any extended trips, and the storm of criticism that met his departure from the precedent that a President should stay in Washington caused other Presidents to remain pretty much at home until Cleveland revived the Presidential tours.

Since Cleveland's time, Presidents have traveled more and more, and since that time Conductor Hardester has been the man to take out most of their special trains and private cars.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.  
"Never marry a girl," quoth one modern philosopher, "until you have traveled long and far with her."  
By the same token, "Never vote for a President until you have taken a few train trips with him," would be a safe rule, if it could be generally followed.  
Sponsor for this sage bit of advice is David F. Hardester, Capt. David Edward, as his traveling friends, some of fifteen years' standing, call him. Presidents know him by the same name. For, since the day he was put on his first Presidential special with Grover Cleveland as the passenger of honor, Captain Edward has been a conductor of Presidents.  
Name over your favorite places to study human nature. There are the ball game, the golf course, on a sinking ship, just before dinner, on a trying and busy day, and the way home from a summer vacation. But better than all these, if you take it from Capt. David Edward, is the Pullman car.

Conductors grow to use their eyes and ears during the long waits between stops, and Captain Hardester can tell you curious stories of operators and ball players, of captains of finance and public men, of big men in all walks of life, and some who grow very little when off their guard—but then this is a story of Presidents en route.

Admirer of Roosevelt.  
The expected happened.  
"Roosevelt? You bet I have traveled with Colonel Roosevelt. And let me say he is the grandest man who ever drew breath. Every trainman will tell you that."

It is not simply because the Colonel shakes hands all around after each trip, Hardester explained. Many politicians do that. No, it is that those stops on the back that meant a "Good morning" from the Bull Moose chief.

"The fellows liked Roosevelt because he was a prince of good fellows," the conductor said. "And when he talked, he knew what we were talking about, likewise he knew what he was talking about. Why even the brakemen would talk with 'T. R.' about railroading and he would talk to them in their own tongue. He didn't talk down to us, he talked to us and with us. And when we told him about railroading he got us every trip."

As evidence that human nature, not politics, is Hardester's criterion in this interview, it should be stated that his second best bet in Presidents is President Wilson.  
"There is a gentleman for you, every inch of him," Hardester went on. "And next to Colonel Roosevelt he has the most wonderful memory of any man I ever knew. When Mr. Wilson was governor of New Jersey I was Pullman conductor on the train that carried him down to Trenton from Newark every morning. More than two years later I went out with him, then President, on his trip to Mobile, Ala. The train stopped down in Virginia so he could get a little exercise, and I went back to escort him up to the engineer's cab. Recalled by Wilson.

"He shook hands and I started to say, 'Maybe you remember.' He broke in with 'Of course, I remember you. You are the man who used to run me over to Trenton every morning when I was governor' I have heard him pick out others that you would not expect a busy man to recall. I never saw the equal of him for that trick, except Roosevelt. And you could stop the train at some flag station in the back woods and be sure that Colonel Roosevelt would reach out and say 'Why there's my old friend Jones, or Smith, or Tom.'"

Hardester came to be friends with the Roosevelt regime. They, like their father, liked to travel, and frequently they were put in Hardester's care when they went to New York or to New England points. The conductor told of the efforts made by Theodore, Jr., and Quentin Roosevelt to keep their identity from passengers. Once Quentin, they about twelve, had been put in Hardester's care for the trip from Boston to Washington. "New York," he struck up a friendship with a little girl of about his own age and her mother.

He buttonholed the conductor in the smoking room with a request. "Now don't give me away. Remember, for this trip my name is Smith."

"And Smith he was," chuckled Hardester. "Until the little girl's father boarded the train, and then more. He recognized Quentin and the game was off. Quentin admitted he was caught. He invited the little girl and her mother to go over to the White House. And I guess they did, for they were pleased, naturally, at having made a friend in the President's family."

Many Types in White House.  
Mrs. Longworth, then Miss Alice Roosevelt, made every effort to keep her presence unknown to curious passengers, according to Conductor



DAVID E. HARDESTER.

Hardester. She kept to her state-room, but frequently called in members of the train crew to ask questions about points the train was

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### Wilson Ranked Only Second to Roosevelt in Popularity With Trainmen—Has Gift of Re-calling Faces.

passing. And when she went to Boston on the Colonial Express, that then was ferried around New York city, she would demurely ask the conductor to escort her about the less frequented parts of the ferryboat, so that she might see busy Gotham.

"President McKinley was a different type," the conductor continued. "But we all revered and respected him. We looked upon him as we would upon a clergyman. He was a kindly gentleman, and always had a pleasant word for the trainmen. President Taft stayed in his car between stations, and seldom came out on the platform, as Mr. Roosevelt usually did. But President Taft was uniformly courteous. He did not like the trainmen to go through his car much."

"Just as cordial in his own way as Mr. Roosevelt is President Wilson. I never heard him refuse a request for a meeting with him. Especially through the South, in his own country, he seemed glad to shake hands with every one. He never asked who was who or why they came. "Dr. Grayson is another thoroughbred. Everyone who traveled with him liked him. President Wilson enjoyed, as much as any of us, a joke at his expense. When we were coming back from Mobile Dr. Grayson was dead anxious to have the train stop at his home town. I think it was Culpeper. He wanted to introduce the President to his friends back home."

**Joke On Dr. Grayson.**  
"Somehow the telegram that Dr. Grayson sent on ahead went wrong. When the train came to a stop there was just one man on the platform besides the station hands. And he looked up and said sleepily, 'Hello, Doc.' One could keep on good terms with President Cleveland, the trainmen

learned, by giving him what he wanted when he wanted it.  
"Once after Mr. Cleveland had retired from the White House I took a special car with a party of his friends to Georgetown, S. C., on a hunting trip. A waiter came to me in a great hurry saying that the party in the Cleveland car wanted Scotch whisky highballs. And there was no Scotch whisky aboard. I scratched around and found some corn whiskey that was old enough to be the proper color, but plenty of lemon in those highballs, and there was no comeback. But you can bet that, at the next station we laid in a supply of Scotch."

Conductor Hardester stands ready to vouch for Colonel Roosevelt's temperance while traveling. And he wired the colonel, just before the libel trial of the Michigan editor, that he stood ready to be a witness for the Roosevelt sobriety.

"Bully for you. But I've got 'em on the run, and don't need you," the colonel wired back, in effect.  
Captain Hardester proudly displays letters of commendation received from Senators and members of the House for his conduct of the frequent Congressional parties he takes out. He has been assigned to many of the parties that attended funerals of members of Congress during the past fifteen years.

**Conductors Need Tact.**  
"I simply try to be reasonable with them, as I do with other passengers, and attend to business," he said. "I am coming to think more and more that Pullman conductors are born—not made. I have seen many fellows fail because they lacked tact, and patience, and diplomacy."

"We have the best class of American people traveling in Pullman cars. They know good service. And they let you know when things are wrong. But usually they listen to an explanation when it is given them. But if a fellow flies up in a huff it is all up with him."  
"Take it from me again, a Pullman car is a great little place for studying human nature."

### Greek Crew on Way to Take Over Battleship

The Navy Department has been advised that a Greek crew is on the way to Hampton Roads to take the battleship Mississippi, recently sold to Greece, to Mediterranean waters. Their arrival is being awaited with impatience as, if Greece should become involved in the present war, the vessel would have to leave the American port within twenty-four hours. Greek colors were hoisted Friday at Vallafranca on the former American battleship Idaho, which also was sold to Greece, and the Idaho's crew was transferred to the battleship Maine.

### HE PITCHED 'EM TO VICTORY IN HIS HOSE

#### Congressman Elder Bears Honors for Democratic Baseball Triumph.

Liniments and bandages are at a premium today at the homes of those daring members of Congress who essayed to demonstrate the ludicrous side of baseball at the American League Park yesterday. The affair which has since won the title of "a battle to the death between the Democrats and Republicans of the House" was a cross between a joke and a fiasco. To those who regarded "inside baseball" as necessary, it was both, and a side-splitting combination at its best.

And as for the "battle to the death" side of the contest, well, a look at some of the alleged players today would suffice to convince anyone that fatalities almost resulted. Should aches, and pains continue as they are, there'll be more "ows" and "ouches" in the House of Representatives tomorrow than oratory.

But to go back to the game; there was some real baseball. The affair went the full nine innings. Here are a few of the exciting incidents that occurred:

In the ninth inning, when M. C. Kelly pined out to deep center and ran straight from the home plate to second base, the umpire called him out for not touching first. Then the dramatic moment came. Kelly, a Democrat, and a Republican caucus around that umpire, the redoubtable "Reddy" O'Dea, and the political war that waged for several minutes was "just grand," according to a charming little person in the stands. The umpire decided that Kelly came nearer touching third base than first. Congressman "Walt" Elder, from the State which New Orleans made famous, pitched for the Democrats, yes, said. He pitched in his stocking feet.

Congressman Reilly, captain of the Democratic team, announced afterward that he had found the only barefooted pitcher in captivity in the person of the Louisianaian. Elder explained that he lost his shoes in an effort to save the "party."

Congressman Harrison came very near being drafted by a "bush league" magnate who happened to be present, so neatly did he escape hitting the ball. The game as played by the Congressmen seemed to have added features. Some of these included competition in the art of striking feet away from the sphere.

Notwithstanding the brilliant manner in which some of the players handled

themselves, there were those present on the field who made up for their comrades' shortcomings and made the game very funny throughout.  
Nearly every member of the House, who was in the city attended the game, including Minority Leader Mann. He was very much disappointed because his boys did not show better form. By the way the score was 16 to 9 in favor of the Democrats.

The line-up of the teams as given at the start of the game follows: Democrats—W. Elder, Pennsylvania, shortstop, and pitcher; Tom Stout, Montana, second base; W. A. Oldfield, Arkansas,

catcher; B. P. Harrison, Mississippi, third base; E. Y. Webb, North Carolina, pitcher and shortstop; W. N. Bails, Illinois, centerfield; F. J. Garrett, Tennessee, rightfield; G. W. Rauch, Indiana, first base; Capt. T. L. Reilly, Connecticut, leftfield. Republicans—P. D. Norton, North Dakota, third base; R. D. Woodruff, Michigan, first base; C. E. Patton, Pennsylvania, pitcher; M. C. Kelly, Pennsylvania, shortstop; S. Anderson, Minnesota, catcher; Capt. C. B. Miller, Minnesota, second base; S. R. Barton, Nebraska, leftfield; A. Kennedy, Rhode Island, centerfield; J. R. Farr, Pennsylvania, rightfield.

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